



Senate Press Office

201 Paul D. Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404.656.0028 or outside the Atlanta area 800.282.5803

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
February 1, 2007

PRESS RELEASE

For Information Contact:
Merri M. Brantley, Director
Jeremy Arie, Deputy Director
404.656.0028
jeremy.arieh@senate.ga.gov

Senate Floor Leaders introduce *HOPE Chest* legislation

ATLANTA– State Senators Joseph Carter (R-Tifton), Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone) and Bill Heath (R-Bremen) have introduced legislation on behalf of Governor Sonny Perdue, which aims to protect Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship for future generations. Senate Resolution 125, known as the *HOPE Chest* Amendment, would limit the use of lottery funds to costs associated with the HOPE scholarship and Pre-K programs.

“These two programs are the cornerstones of education here in Georgia,” said Sen. Carter. “The passage of this legislation will ensure the future of HOPE and Pre-K for generations to come.”

Between the 1994 and 2003 fiscal years, state legislators appropriated over \$1.8 billion in lottery revenue on budget items outside of the HOPE and Pre-K programs. The HOPE Chest Amendment would mandate that lottery funds only be spent on the HOPE and Pre-K programs.

As Gov. Perdue’s administration floor leaders in the Senate, Senators Carter, Chance and Heath will carry Gov. Perdue’s legislation as it works its way through the legislative process.

“Recently, we celebrated the one millionth recipient of the HOPE Scholarship in Georgia,” added Sen. Heath. “It’s crucial to protect HOPE and to make sure that down the road it is available for a million

more Georgia students. This amendment is not about any previous administrations or legislatures. This is a bipartisan effort to be the best stewards we can be.”

In 2006, Gov. Perdue named the three Senators as administration floor leaders in the Senate. As Georgia’s executive officer, Gov. Perdue cannot introduce or carry legislation in either chamber of the General Assembly, so it is the floor leaders’ duty to do so.

###

Sen. Joseph Carter represents the 13th Senate District which includes Ben Hill, Crisp, Irwin, Lee, Tift, Turner and Worth Counties and a portion of Wilcox County. He can be reached at 404.651.7738 or by email at joseph@josephcarter2004.com.

Sen. Ronnie Chance represents the 16th Senate District, which includes Lamar and Pike counties and portions of Fayette, Monroe and Spalding counties. He may be reached by phone at 404.651.7738 or via e-mail at ronnie.chance@senate.ga.gov.

Sen. Bill Heath represents the 31st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Bartow, Haralson, Paulding and Polk Counties. He may be reached at 404.651.7738, or by email at billheath@billheath.net.